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--This application is a continuation-in-part of copending U.S. application Serial No. 09/694,516, filed October 23, 2000, and also a continuation-in-part of copending U.S. application Serial No. 09/494,113, filed January 31, 2000. For purposes of disclosing the present invention, the foregoing applications are incorporated herein by specific reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

✓  
Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

✓  
Please amend claims 1-15 and 17-20 as follows:

SLG  
B1  
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1. (Amended) A dental bleaching composition for whitening and desensitizing a person's teeth comprising:

at least one dental bleaching agent included in an amount so as to have a tooth whitening effect when contacted with a person's teeth;

potassium nitrate included in an amount of about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of the dental bleaching composition; and

a carrier into which said dental bleaching agent and potassium nitrate are dispersed, wherein the dental bleaching composition is substantially free of abrasives.

2. (Amended) A dental bleaching composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said potassium nitrate is included in an amount of about 0.05% to about 1% by weight of the dental bleaching composition.

3. (Amended) A dental bleaching composition as defined in claim 1, wherein said potassium nitrate is included in an amount of about 0.5% by weight of the dental bleaching composition.